

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

/050 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:JGRUNAWALT:DLD

APPROVED BY EUR/SE - LBLAINGEN

DOD/ISA - DMAJORS

EUR/SE - WLEAGLETON

PM - GCHURCHILL

L - SGUDGEON

----- 045902

O R 130018Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO

SECDEF

JCS

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

USEUCOM

USNMR SHAPE

USDEL MC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191421

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, NARR, GR

SUBJECT: US GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: ATHENS 6024

1. WHILE WE TOO ARE DISAPPOINTED AT THE LIMITED DURATION
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OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ON ELEFSIS, IT APPEARS TO BE THE
BEST THAT WE CAN EXPECT TO OBTAIN FROM THE GREEKS AT THIS
TIME AND IT DOES KEEP OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF OUR ULTIMATE
RETENTION OF THAT FACILITY AND RESUMPTION OF NORMAL

SHIP VISITING THROUGHOUT GREECE. THE NAVY WELCOMES THIS OPENING IN WHAT HERETOFORE LOOKED TO BE A CLOSED QUESTION, AND PLANS ARE NOW IN PREPARATION TO PROGRAM UP TO FIVE SHIPS EACH MONTH INTO ELEFSIS IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, AND DECEMBER. NAVY WILL CONDUCT VISITS IN LOW-KEY TO MINIMIZE VISIBILITY AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF LOCAL ADVERSE REACTION.

2. WE AGREE THAT THE SOFA AND HELLENIKON TALKS CAN PROCEED WITHOUT IMPINGING ON NATO DISCUSSION, HOWEVER,

GIVEN FIRMNESS OF GREEK POSITION ON THE FUTURE MANPOWER LEVEL AT HELLENIKON, WE PREFER AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEM BEFORE RECONVENING THAT SUBGROUP. WHILE WE COULD WITH DIFFICULTY BE PREPARED TO MEET WITH THEM BY 15 SEPTEMBER, YOU SHOULD AGAIN PRESS CALOGERAS FOR A DELAY UNTIL OCTOBER, DRAWING ON THE INHERENT COMPLEXITIES OF THE PROBLEM AND PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES OF WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVES TRAVELLING AT AN EARLIER DATE. FAILING THIS, YOU SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO SLIP THE HELLENIKON STARTING DATE TO AS LATE IN SEPTEMBER AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO EARLIER THAN 22 SEPTEMBER. WE ANTICIPATE THAT WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO MEET THE GREEK REQUEST TO REOPEN THE SOFA SUBGROUP TALKS BY 15 SEPTEMBER. SINCE WASHINGTON SOFA AND HELLENIKON REPRESENTATIVES HAVE COLLATERAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS, IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT IF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUBGROUP COULD BE SCHEDULED ONE WEEK AFTER HELLENIKON DISCUSSIONS BEGIN. CONSEQUENTLY, WE SHOULD STRIVE TO OBTAIN GREEK APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

SOFA SUBGROUP - 15 SEPTEMBER
HELLENIKON SUBGROUP - 1 OCTOBER
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUBGROUP - 6 OCTOBER. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASES, NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE191421
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/SE:JGRUNAWALT:DLD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750278-1138
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197508100/baaaarwc.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: MILI, MARR, GR, US
To: ATHENS INFO NATO
SECDEF
JCS
USCINCEUR
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Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006